

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUBJ: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL, 23RD SESSION: ITEMS 7 AND 8:

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW  
DIMENSIONS; REPORT ON GOVERNMENT EXECUTION OF  
PROJECTS

1. SUMMARY - NEW DIMENSIONS IS THE TERM USED BY UNDP SINCE 1975 TO INDICATE THE MOVEMENT TOWARD A MORE FLEXIBLE AND VARIED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AIMED AT GREATER SELF-RELIANCE AND GREATER PARTICIPATION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION. GOVERNMENT (IN CONTRAST TO SPECIALIZED AGENCY) EXECUTION OF PROJECTS IS ONE OF THE MEANS BY WHICH THE GREATER PARTICIPATION BY LDCS IS FOSTERED. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED REPORTS ON THESE TWO RELATED ISSUES, AND PROVIDING CAUTIOUS ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE ADMINISTRATOR TO PROCEED ALONG THESE LINES, WHILE TAKING CARE TO INSURE THAT ADEQUATE CONTROLS AND MONITORING WERE MAINTAINED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE UNDP DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR (PATEL) AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR PROGRAM AND POLICY (ANSTEE) INTRODUCED DP/220, REPORTING ON LIMITED PROGRESS MADE IN THE APPLICATION OF THE NEW DIMENSIONS CONCEPT MAINLY AS A RESULT OF THE SLOWDOWN OF THE PROGRAM IN 1976 DUE TO FINANCIAL  
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CONSTRAINTS IN ADDITION TO PROCEDURAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAD ARISEN IN ATTEMPTS TO FURTHER DECENTRALIZE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE FIELD. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT IT WOULD ALSO TAKE A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE AND REORIENTED APPROACHES TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS TO ASSUME INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EXECUTION OF PROJECTS AND TO BUILD SELF-RELIANCE. THE

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FULLY INTO THE PICTURE ON GOVERNMENT EXECUTION OF PROJECTS AS A RESULT OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS INITIATED BY UNDP AND THE ORGANIZATION OF A SPECIAL TASK FORCE IN DECEMBER WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATOR WITH THE ADVICE OF THE AGENCIES. ANSTEE STATED THAT A "FULL MEETING OF THE MINDS" HAD BEEN ACHIEVED INITIALLY WITH THE AGENCIES. IN ADDITION, REVISED UNDP GUIDELINES WERE BEING PREPARED TO BE SENT SHORTLY TO THE FIELD AND DETAILED FINANCIAL PROCEDURES WERE BEING DEVELOPED ON GOVERNMENT EXECUTION. TO DATE ONLY ONE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR GOVERNMENT EXECUTION, A REGIONAL INSTITUTION RATHER THAN A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BEING THE IMPLEMENTING AGENT.

3. IN ALL 27 MEMBER STATES, INCLUDING THE U.S., MADE STATEMENTS ON THESE TWIN ITEMS. THE COMMENTS VARIED FROM THE CRITICAL TO THE FAVORABLE. THE CANADIANS VOICED EXTENSIVE CRITICISM TO THE EFFECT THAT UNDP SHOULD BE FOCUSING MORE CAREFULLY ON ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS RATHER THAN DEVISING NEW CONCEPTS, AND CONDEMNED ITS ATTEMPTS AT TRYING TO ALTER TRIED AND TESTED PROCEDURES. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS ASKED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW DIMENSIONS APPROACH (PRINCIPALLY ON PROCUREMENT AND RECRUITMENT). INDIA SPOKE SHARPLY AGAINST DONORS ATTEMPTING TO DICTATE SECTORAL OR OTHER TARGETS, STATING THE PRINCIPLE THAT RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS WERE FREE TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN PRIORITIES. GENERAL SENTIMENT WAS EXPRESSED THAT UNDP

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SHOULD MAKE MORE RATIONAL USE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS. THERE SEEMED TO BE CLEAR CONSENSUS THAT NEW DIMENSIONS APPROACH HAD NOT AS YET HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE NATURE OF THE PROGRAM, DUE IN PART TO THE RECENT LIQUIDITY CRISIS.

4. ON GOVERNMENT EXECUTION OF PROJECTS THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT, CONFIRMED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, THAT UNDP SHOULD CONTINUE ON A CAUTIOUS AND SELECTIVE BASIS, INVOLVING FULLY THE SERVICES AND ADVICE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND THAT THE BUILDUP OF SELF-RELIANCE AMONG RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS WAS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE. INNOVATIVE APPROACHES WERE GENERALLY ENCOURAGED. SEVERAL AGENCIES, LED BY FAO, EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND TO ASSIST RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS FULLY IN THIS AREA, NOTING THAT MANY PROCEDURES STILL HAD TO BE WORKED OUT. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM WAS OF PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION.

4. U.S. STATEMENT BY PIERRE SALES BEING POUCHED TO

IO/DHP AND AID/PPC/IA.

5. A DRAFT DECISION ON ITEM 7 AND 8 (DP/GC/XXIII/WP 2  
HAS BEEN TABLED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND POUCHED TO  
IO/DHP.  
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